



# Meeting Minutes

## Arts Commission

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Stephanie  
Johnson  
360.709.2678

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**Thursday, August 12, 2021**

**6:00 PM**

**Online or via Phone**

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**Register to attend:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_H0GeF245RUeLHuol3BBkvA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H0GeF245RUeLHuol3BBkvA)

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dobler called the meeting to order at 6pm.

### 1.A ROLL CALL

In addition Erika Naficy from Enterprise for Equity and Arts Program Specialist Angel Nava were in attendance.

**Present:** 8 - Chair Frederick Dobler, Vice Chair Jim Burlingame, Commissioner Rose Clifthorne, Commissioner Kathryn Dorgan, Commissioner Stacy Hicks, Commissioner Kathy Murray, Commissioner Joe Batt and Commissioner Jace Hoag

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Shameka Gagnier

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Clifthorne moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hicks

**The agenda was approved.**

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [21-0762](#) Approval of July 8, 2021 Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [OAC 7.8.21 Minutes](#)

Commissioner Dorgan moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Batt.

**The minutes were approved.**

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners shared information about past and upcoming arts events. Ms. Johnson

shared that Olympia Family Theater founding Artistic Director Jen Ryle is stepping down. Commissioners agreed to her offer to draft a letter of appreciation for Chair Dobler to sign and send on their behalf.

## 6. BUSINESS ITEMS

### 6.A [21-0774](#) Enterprise for Equity Briefing

**Attachments:** [Enterprise for Equity](#)

Erika Naficy, Creative Outreach Specialist for Enterprise for Equity, provided an overview of the organization's business planning program, micro-loans and other specialized classes. Ms. Naficy also noted that Enterprise for Equity is working on a business hub website called Create Western Washington which will allow the community to source and shop local. No cost to join and easy registration.

**Information only. No action requested.**

### 6.B [21-0772](#) Review and recommendation of Percival Plinth Project Peoples' Choice Award

Ms. Nava shared the results of the 2021 Percival Plinth Project Peoples' Choice vote. Voting took place the month of July, using the Engage Olympia platform.

334 votes were received with 218 or 65% of voters viewing the sculptures in person and 236 voters providing comments about the work.

With 23% of the vote, **Woman with Graves at Her Back** by Aisha Harrison took the lead, with **Bough and Bend** by Jennifer Kapnek (18.5%) and **Memories of a Heron** by Shawn Johnson (14.4%) coming in Runner Up and Honorable mention, respectively.

Comments included:

- “Very sophisticated piece. Would grace any collection.”
- “Beautiful, thought provoking, skillful.”
- “It is evocative, solid, and well crafted. She has a strong presence and I want to sit with her. She invites us to pause and reflect on the past, present, future..”
- “There is something about this sculpture that touches the part of me that has endured loss.”
- “It's awesome to see representational figure sculpture that has deep metaphorical historical meaning and features a bipoc woman. Genius that she isn't looking at us !!!

Ms. Nava also shared demographic information and Commissioners discussed additional ways to get the word out about the voting opportunity.

Vice-Chair Burlingame moved to recommend purchase of **Woman with Graves at Her Back** to City Council, seconded by Commission Hicks. The motion passed unanimously.

**Recommend "Woman with Graves at Her Back" by Aisha Harrison to City Council for purchase as the winner of the 2021 Percival Plinth People's Choice vote.**

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.A [21-0758](#) Policy and Program Recommendations to City Council**

Chair Dobler and Commissioner Clifthorne provided an update on the mural tours developing in association with PBIA. The first will have the theme of salmon and extend from the location of the annual salmon return viewing station on the 5th Avenue bridge to Fish Brewing, winding through salmon-themed artwork located in between. Ms. Johnson shared that Ring Dance #2 by Don Freas, owned by the PBIA, has been removed from the construction corridor on Franklin Street, and will be returned at some point to a new downtown location.

**Information only. No action requested.**

### **7.B [21-0759](#) Arts Program Support**

Ms. Nava provided a brief update on fall Arts Walk planning. Commissioners Dorgan and Batt provided feedback to staff on the new digital public art assessment format. Ms. Johnson noted that Creative Branches was up and running for the Poet Laureate program, and the City Hall exhibition will be installed at the end of August, as will the foundation for Art Crossing #2. She also shared the Climate Justice mural concept for the lower Harrison wall, which is the culmination of the Thurston Climate Action Team community workshop and education project awarded a 2021 GACO grant.

**Information only. No action requested.**

### **7.C [21-0761](#) ARCH Support**

Ms. Nava shared an update on the Armory project to date, noting that the first community outreach efforts will coincide with Fall Arts Walk.

**Information only. No action requested.**

## **8. OTHER TOPICS**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

**Upcoming**

## **Accommodations**